

**NC INTERAGENCY NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2006**

ATTENDEES:

NCSU

Deanna Osmond
David Crouse
John Havlin

NCDA

David Hardy
Brenda Cleveland
Colleen Hudak

DSWC

Vernon Cox

NRCS

Lane Price
Tommy Cutts
Josh Spencer

Discussion items:

1. Discussion on high rates of starter P in high agronomic P soils: David Hardy brought to the group the issue of excessive starter P that is being applied to crops in some cases, specifically corn. Hardy noted that he had received information from Bob Edwards that starter P was being applied through DAP 18-46-0 at rates of up to 92 lbs/acre. This far exceeds the recommended rate of applied starter P, which is usually 30-40 lbs/acre on medium P soils, and 10-20 lbs/acre on high-P soils. The existing NCSU/Extension Soil Facts fact sheet addresses both N and P rates for starter fertilizers. One reason for the excessive starter P is that fertilizer blends designed to increase N and decrease P relative to DAP or other P dominant fertilizer are not being used as specified in the fact sheet. Osmond agreed to evaluate the fact sheet to see if updates need to be made. The agencies agreed to send the fact sheet out with a reminder to their staff as appropriate.
2. Urease and nitrification inhibitors: Lane Price introduced and the group discussed the viability of products that are reported to inhibit both ammonia volatilization and the nitrification process. Agrotain International had formally requested inclusion of these products into the NC EQIP cost-list for 2007 under the 590 Nutrient Management practice. Use of these products had been included in the Missouri EQIP program during FY 2006. The group agreed that there is presently no research that can show that these products are effective in North Carolina. Points were made by the group suggesting that conditions for the effective use of these products in NC may be different than in other parts of the U.S. —that NC has low volatility potential for ammonia and that heavier soils present in NC may minimize the effectiveness of the nitrification inhibitor. Osmond reported that past research in the State into similar products did not generally prove to be effective. The group believes that products of this kind should be demonstrated to be technically effective prior to inclusion as part of the nutrient management standard and subsequently any NRCS cost-sharing program. Josh Spencer was asked to draft a response to Agrotain declining immediate endorsement by the INMC of the products, but giving the company the opportunity to fund a research study to determine the effectiveness of these type products in North Carolina. It was estimated by the NCSU presence that the study would cost \$60,000-\$70,000.

3. Nutrient Management/NCANAT software integration: This effort is moving forward after Sept 1 meeting with Division, NCSU, and NRCS. The next step is to identify shared databases between PLAT and the Nutrient Management software. David Crouse and Vernon Cox agreed to meet and compare/contrast the current information databases for both programs and see what the needs and complexities are for using two sets of information for one merged software application.
4. Revised CAFO rule and new NC NPDES permits: Lane Price brought up that public hearings on the new NC animal waste permits were taking place across the state. The new permits are being developed by DWQ because of the expiration of existing NPDES permits and the current revision of the EPA CAFO rules. Contentious issues at the hearings included animal waste “setback” requirements that are included in the revised CAFO rule. Under the new rule, producers will have more flexibility to determine if they will apply for a NPDES permit. Vernon Cox mentioned that DWQ training materials were good and might be beneficial to field employees that provide assistance to producers. The group agreed that field employees should not provide any type of recommendation to producers as to whether their facilities should apply for NPDES permits, but could provide information that would help the producers make decisions for themselves.
5. RYEs and Soil Management Groups: The group began discussing the RYE for Burley tobacco that is missing from the RYE database and nutrient management software. Deanna Osmond agreed to check with NCSU crop science department to determine the status of getting this information for inclusion into the RYE database. Crouse introduced the topic of missing soil management group information for certain soil types. After discussion, the group agreed that SMGs should move forward in the long term with the transition to groups based on soil taxonomy rather than current groups based on geography and physical soil properties. This process will lead to reassessment of soil groups for NCANAT and Nutrient Management software.

The next NC INMC meeting will be held on November 30, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the NCDA Agronomic Lab.